



# UPDATE FROM THE MUUTUKIS

## SABBATICAL UPDATE FROM GERMANY

July 2017

*Guten Tag!*

In our last email from Nairobi, we said “*kwaheri*”. This is the Kiswahili word we use for goodbye. Now, we need to teach you another word. The word for welcome is “*karibu*”. We were welcomed in Germany by Diguna Mission director and his wife with a wonderful lunch when we arrived June 16. Thank you so much for your prayers and thoughts on that flight.

We arrived and hit the ground running. Well, maybe we should have taken time to rest because on our first day after getting into the wrong train in Frankfurt we definitely lacked some patience! A night flight of 8 hours and getting into a wrong train headed opposite direction with 5 suitcases, we got mad at each other. We realized only later as we looked back that we have a great God who loves and forgives us. We had no excuses to be mad anymore other than to forgive each other. We received so much peace and our energy level came back after acknowledging our weakness.

Three days later we were able to travel to Munich to see our two children who live there. Our five hour drive back on the German Autobahns was so refreshing compared to our Kenyan roads. We spent a night in our apartment in Haiger/Hessen and drove another 5 hours to Bremen, Elfi’s home town to see her family.

In our last email we shared some good news about Anishma, our Indian foster child. Sadly, she was not able to get a Kenyan passport to travel to India to see Arun, her fiancé (*pictured below*). We had not realized that neither her father nor her mother were Kenyan citizens. Kenyan law does not grant citizenship if the father is not a citizen. With this door closed we decided to try the Indian High Commission. Since she was not recognized as a Kenyan, we thought she could get some kind of Indian status. That has also proven to be difficult. The Indian High Commission advised that we get a lawyer do an affidavit showing she was born in Kenya through her birth certificate and went to schools in Kenya and has never possessed travel documents of any kind. This has been a difficult and expensive venture for us. However, we must say that she is so thankful and has been at peace to know she has people who care and love her. We are her true family. Keep her and the lawyer working on her papers in prayer.



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\*Please pray that we have peaceful elections in Kenya on August 8. About 10 years ago we had violence after elections because the two main candidates would not agree on the outcome. Pray for sanity among the Kenyan voters and our candidates to stand for peace no matter the outcome.

\*Elfi and I are planning on taking few days retreat in England from August 21-26. Pray for God's provision. We needed a rest and recharging and found this place with a speaker. I am now waiting for my visa so we can travel. Pray for that. Also, pray that as soon as I get the passport back from British High commission I can apply for American visa so we can visit in October.

\*Pray for me as I have been asked to preach in two churches in August. One church is in Berlin on the 6 August, a 5 hour drive and the other is here in Haiger on 13 August where we live. I have not preached in German in 4 years!! If you remember please pray for me.

\*I, Joe just started reading Randy Nabor's book, "Merciful". I have been amazed to see how God used Randy from humble beginnings to lead a ministry that reaches the poor, the needy and the widow with the love of Jesus. I am only in the beginning of the book but, boy I can tell it is going to be a good reading. Randy is the one who encouraged me to seek ordination before leaving US in 1994!

We are thankful and grateful for your prayers and support.

Always thankful for your partnership,

*Joe and Elfi*

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